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Dr. R. R. Traill, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OTTERY ST. MARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ottery Saint Mary Urban District Council.

I beg to present to you a statement of the Public Health of your
District for the year 1954.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	...	41.
Still Births	...	0.
Boys	...	16.
Girls	...	25.

There was one illegitimate birth.

Deaths.

In our own district (including transferable
to other districts 11) ... 59

Transferable from other districts 11.

Males	...	32.
Females	...	27.

Of these deaths:-

- 5 had reached the age of 90 years and upward.
- 10 had reached the age of 80 years and upward.
- 20 had reached the age of 70 years and upward.
- 9 had reached the age of 65 years and upward.

One child died at the age of 20 months and two other deaths occurred (females)
at the respective age of 16 years and 38 years.

There were fourteen deaths from Cancer; none from Tuberculosis; no accidental
deaths and no cases of suicide.

The average age of adult death was about 72 years.

Hospital.

The following details have been given by the Ottery Saint Mary
District Cottage Hospital, viz:-

Admissions	...	318.
Discharges	...	298.
Out Patients	...	584.
Out Patients Attendance		2,555.
Operations	...	257.
Deaths	...	14.

Physiotherapy Department. During the year 148 patients attended,
and 3,174 treatments were given.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre is open every other Thursday except during
holiday periods. During this year it was open 24 times.

On the Register there were 74 children. The attendances were as
follows, viz:-

Infants (under 1 year)	153.
Toddlers	151.

Prevalence and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

I received the following notifications of Infectious Diseases during
the year, viz:-

Measles	0
Tuberculosis	4
Polio-Myelitis	0
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	0
Dysentery	1
Erysipelas	0
Paratyphoid "B"	0



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I have received no records of Venereal Diseases. The nearest Centre for treatment is at Exeter, and presumably, any cases that occur in this district go to Exeter direct for treatment, and do not come under my notice.

National Health Service Act 1946.

The local Medical Practitioners continue to work well with the District Nurses in the District, and jointly are responsible for the Treatment and welfare of Expectant and Nursing Mothers. Difficult cases are still transferred to the Specialist services at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, and in emergencies the Specialists are always prepared to come to the district to visit and give their help. The young children up to 5 years of age have the services of the Infant Welfare Centre, and the health visitor visits them when necessary. Older children attending school are catered for by the School Medical Services.

National Assistance Act 1948.

Section 47. No action has been taken under this section during the year.

Food poisoning outbreaks.

There have been no outbreaks during the year.

Water Supply.

Slow progress on the proposed improvements to water supply systems to the Town Area and the Country area was made - by the East Devon Water Board. Representations from Wiggaton and Tipton St. John regarding the unsatisfactory supplies were received - both villages pumps are of the shallow well type and for some years now the supply from these pumps has been suspect and unsatisfactory both in quality and quantity. It is expected that an early start is to be made to lay main water to these two villages by the East Devon Water Board.

Bacteriological Examinations of the Mains water were all reported as being satisfactory - all samples, with the exception of one, which was reported as being of Class II quality, were of Class I quality and therefore entirely satisfactory.

Results of Bacteriological Examinations:-

East Devon Water Board	- 8 samples Class I	- 1 Sample Class II.
Wiggaton Village Pump	- 3 samples Satisfactory	- 1 Sample Unsatisfactory.
Tipton St. John " "	- 1 sample Satisfactory	- 2 Samples Unsatisfactory.
Private Wells	- 4 samples Satisfactory	- 6 Samples Unsatisfactory.

Minor improvements by the replacing of corroded mains were effected in the Sir John Kennaway private company's supply - these mainly concern the West Hill part of the Urban District, and a few properties to the north of the area.



Sewerage.

The Council's Consulting Engineers have been actively engaged during the year on the preparation of an improved Sewage Disposal Scheme to accommodate the Town Area. The scheme, with modifications, was subsequently approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and the Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare detailed drawings and Bills of Quantities in order that Tenders for the proposed works could be invited.

Further housing development in the Town Area is aggravating the position in respect of the unsatisfactory and out-dated Sewage Disposal Plant now in operation, and the provision of a new sewage disposal works is indeed very necessary and urgent.

Refuse Disposal.

A weekly refuse collection of the town area was carried out, and the rural part of the district had collections on each first and third Friday of each month. The disposal of the refuse was by controlled tipping at a site situate on Chineway Hill, Ottery St. Mary, where the owner/occupier (farmer) of the land wished a large depression to be filled in and levelled. The accommodation for refuse disposal on this site is limited, following which the Council decided to acquire a disused clay pit situate adjacent to the Brickworks and Chineway Road. Negotiations for the land are now in progress.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

	<u>No. on</u> <u>Register.</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Inspections.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority.	27	77
Factories not included in above which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	19	37
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority Building Sites &c.	11	60
Totals	<u>57</u>	<u>174</u>

Defects found and remedied:-

Want of Cleanliness	4
Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>7</u>

Housing.

Number of New Dwelling erected:-

By Local Authority	30
By Other Bodies or Persons	<u>7</u>
Total	<u>37</u>



Food and Drugs Act 1938.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>
Number killed	149	5	34	589	318	--
Number inspected	144	5	34	559	307	--

All diseases except
Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.

Whole carcasses condemned.			1	1		
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	15			36	9	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis.	10.41%		2.94%	6.62%	2.93%	

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses condemned.			1		1	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	4				10	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.80%		2.94%		3.58%	

Cysticercosis. N I L.

Condemnations:-

Beef	293 lbs.weight.
Veal	123
Mutton & Lamb	168
Pork	257
Tinned Meats	21
Miscellaneous (tinned fruits &c.)	97
Total	<u>959 lbs.</u>

The inspection of food preparing premises was carried out during the year. Although some improvement was noticed in respect of the cleaner handling of food during its preparation for sale to the public, the general standard of cleanliness of the premises was somewhat lower than in previous years.

Slaughterhouses.

Of the six previously licensed Slaughterhouses in the district, three were licensed following the required alterations to the premises being carried out: the other three decided not to proceed with their applications upon being furnished with details of the Council's minimum requirements to bring the premises up to the required standard.

I am, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) R. R. TRAILL.

Medical Officer of Health.

